8 September 2015 - Help the Met Office and Met Éireann name our storms this winter.

The Met Office and Met Eireann have announced a pilot project to name wind storms that are expected to affect the UK and Ireland.

As the UK and Ireland's National Met Services, the Met Office and Met Éireann operate to maintain public safety through severe weather warnings and forecasts. Working together, it is hoped that naming storms will help raise awareness of severe weather and ensure greater safety of the public.

In recent years the naming of wind storms that affected Ireland and the United Kingdom (such as the 'St Jude's Day' storm) has highlighted the benefits of establishing a formal system for the naming of mid-latitude storms. As storms moving in from the Atlantic often first make landfall on our shores, Met Éireann and the Met Office will be naming severe storms through the autumn and winter 2015/16.

Derrick Ryall, Head of the Public Weather Service at the Met Office, said: "The aim of this pilot is to provide a single authoritative naming system for the storms that affect UK and Ireland.

"We have seen how naming storms elsewhere in the world raises awareness of severe weather before it strikes. We hope that naming storms in line with the official severe weather warnings here will do the same and ensure everyone can keep themselves, their property and businesses safe and protected at times of severe weather."

Gerald Fleming, Head of Forecasting at Met Eireann, added: "It may be a cliche to say that the weather knows no boundaries, but increasingly the same can be said for news. When severe weather threatens National Met Services have the significant challenge - above and beyond the technical forecasting challenge - of bringing coherent and consistent messages to the public, to enable effective action in response. Putting names on severe storms helps the public to immediately relate to threatening weather systems.

"As we share a common interest in North Atlantic storms, it makes sense for Met Éireann in Ireland and the Met Office in the United Kingdom to share a common naming system for severe windstorms. We in the forecast office in Dublin look forward to working with our colleagues at the UK's national forecaster in using this common naming system for severe Atlantic storms, helping us to better communicate impending threats to the peoples of our islands."

The Met Office is using social media to gather names for inclusion in the list. You can suggest names in a variety of ways:

- Tweeting to @metoffice using #nameourstorms followed by your suggestion
- Provide your suggestions through the Met Office Facebook pages
- Send an email to pressoffice@metoffice.gov.uk with the subject name of 'nameourstorms' and the suggested name in the email

The names will be collated and a list compiled to include those proposed by Met Éireann. Storm names will then be taken from this list, in alphabetical order, alternating between male and female names.

A storm will be named when it is deemed to have the potential to cause 'medium' or 'high' wind impacts on the UK and/or Ireland, i.e. if a yellow, amber or red warning for wind has been issued by Met Éireann and/or the National Severe Weather Warnings (NSWWS).

Last updated: 21 October 2015